

21 June 1963

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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Deputy Director (Intelligence)

THROUGH: Assistant Director for Research and Reports *ORg*

THROUGH: Chief, Economic Research Area, ORR

SUBJECT: Status of the CIA/DIA Study on Soviet Ground Forces

REFERENCE: My Memorandum for the Record, Subject: Meeting
with General Carroll on Soviet Ground Force
Project, 28 May 1963

1. After the meeting with General Carroll (discussed in the referenced memorandum), there was a distinct change in the attitude of DIA toward the project. [redacted] who is the DIA point of contact and "co-chairman" of the panel, has been extremely co-operative. He and the other DIA members of the panel have taken a very constructive attitude toward the task, and it appears that the DIA people have been dissuaded from their original approach of justifying previous estimates to a new approach of building a new stratified assessment of Soviet ground forces on the basis of the reliability of the available evidence. The analysts and their supervisors seem to welcome the opportunity to discuss the problems they face in assessing the Soviet ground force in the face of inadequate evidence. With the bureaucratic difficulties seemingly solved, the project has now turned to the many extremely difficult substantive problems.

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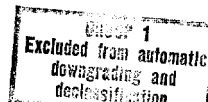
2. Since the meeting with General Carroll, the panel's activities have included the following:

a. Through continuing discussions with [redacted] and other DIA members we have tentatively decided to start the preliminary report with a description of the structure and mission of the Soviet ground forces establishment, followed by a discussion of Soviet mobilization philosophy. Then there will be a general discussion of the nature, adequacy, and scope of the information received over time with respect to line units, including their organization, manning, and equipment. We will make some comparisons with US units on costs

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as well as on the preceding points. On the basis of a detailed study of line divisions by region, DIA will attempt to build an assessment of the number of such divisions, stratified according to the degree of confidence we can have in their existence on the basis of available evidence. Work has been started on some of these topics.

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b.

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This was extremely informative and frankly presented. It clearly indicated the lack of evidence on the strengths of Soviet units except for a few stationed in the European Satellites.

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c.

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Again, the problems of presenting precise estimates was clearly shown.

d. CIA/ORR has reviewed (and modified some) previous estimates of the costs of a wide variety of Soviet ground force equipment. A paper which includes these new costs and calculations of Soviet expenditures on this equipment has been prepared for panel consideration. We are also making arrangements to have these costs reviewed by appropriate people in the DOD.

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Chief, Military-Economic Division, ORR

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